Increase in naxal activities in Jharkhand

692. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxal activities are increasing in the country particularly in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details of loss of lives and property due to this;

(c) the reasons for these attacks; and

(d) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) In 2006, there were a total of 1509 incidents and 678 casualties, of which 310 incidents and 124 casualties were in Jharkhand. In 2007, there were a total of 1565 incidents and 696 casualties, of which 482 incidents and 157 casualties were in Jharkhand.

The naxalites have been observed to be targeting certain types of Government buildings and infrastructure pertaining to road and rail transportation and, in some cases, power transmission facilities. Action is being taken continunously by the State Governments to minimize such possibilities and to strengthen related security arrangements.

Law and order being a State subject, dealing with the various aspects/issues related to naxalite activities in a State primarily lies in the domain of the concerned State Government. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts and resources of the State Governments by a variety of measures that include deployment of Central paramilitary forces which work under the control of the State Government concerned, sanctioning of India Reserve battalions, assistance for strengthening of the State police and Intelligence agencies, reimbursement of security-related expenditure, assistance in training of State police forces, sharing of Intelligence, bringing about inter-State coordination and assistance in development works through a range of scheme of various Ministries.

Implementation of Multi-purpose National Identity Card Pilot Project

†693. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Multi-purpose National Identity Card Pilot Project for the Infrastructural urvey and verification of the status of citizenship in the country is under implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the places where the above card making work has been started at present along with the details of its status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) A Pilot Project on Multi-purpose National Identity Card (MNIC) has been under implementation since November, 2003 on an experimental basis in selected sub-districts of 12 States and 1 Union Territory namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pudducherry covering a population of nearly thirty-one lakh. Under the project, identity (smart) cards are being issued to the citizens of age 18 years and above in the pilot areas. The production and distribution of identity cards has been undertaken through a Consortium of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) set up specially in the premises of Office of the Registrar General, India, at four centres, one each at Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi. As on 29.02.2008, total of 11.50 lakh cards have been personalized and out of these 10 lakh cards have been delivered in various pilots areas.

Cases of communal and regional violence

694. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of communal and regional violence since last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons died/injured in such violence, State-wise;

(c) the details of public and private property damaged/ruined during these violence;

(d) whether any compensation has been paid to the victims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps Government proposes to stop recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the State Governments are primarily responsible for maintenance of law and order and maintenance of details of property damaged as well as compensation paid to victims.

However, as per available information, the details of communal incidents and the persons killed and injured therein in the country during the last three years are given in Statement (*See* below).

(f) To prevent communal incidents in the country the Union Government assists the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of intelligence, sending alert messages, sending Central para-military forces including the composite Rapid Action Force created specially to deal with communal situations to the concerned State Governments on specific request, and in the modernization of the State Police Forces. In addition, the Union Government sends advisories and guidelines in this regard from time to time. The activities of all organizations having a bearing on communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken, wherever necessary.

The Union Government has also introduced a Bill titled 'The Communal violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of victims) Bill, 2005' in Rajya Sabha to address various aspects of the issue of communal violence.